

WI-50
White Chimneys
Mardela Springs
Private

c. 1830, 1974-1995

For the past thirty years this property southeast of Mardela Springs has been known as White Chimneys, a name inspired by the tall exterior brick stacks that dominate the gable ends of this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling. Estimated to date around 1830, the mortise-and-tenon timber frame house is sheathed with a layer of beaded weatherboards and covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. The west gable end retains a early nineteenth century, nine-course common bond brick stack that has corbeled shoulders at the second story level. The east gable end chimney was rebuilt when the house was restored and enlarged during the mid 1970s. Structural evidence found during the restoration indicates that the house was built in two stages, beginning with the eastern two-thirds of the three-bay dwelling. The interior is finished with late Federal woodwork associated with the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The house achieved its full three bay form within ten to fifteen years of initial construction.

During much of the nineteenth century this farm was held by Robert D. Robertson, who is listed in the 1850 United States census for Somerset County as a relatively well-off farmer in Barren Creek election district. At fifty-six years old, Robert D. Robertson was grouped with his wife, Susan M. Robertson and six children, Susan A., aged 21; George T., aged 18; Martha E., aged 15; Annie G., aged 14; Mary C., aged 12; and lastly John C. Robertson at aged 10. R. D. Robertson is also designated on the Barren Creek map of the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas

published in 1877. In 1893, Annie Robertson purchased the 93-acre farm from her siblings and retained title until 1924.

By 1968 the Federal farmhouse was in a poor state of repair, and the present owners purchased the house and 25 acres. Over the course following few years the house was restored and a modern addition was designed and built to the rear. The modern or contemporary aspect of the rear wing was conceived in compatible fashion that clearly distinguishes the old house from the new wing, and at the same, the design provided the new addition with a distinct character all its own. Also standing on the property is another early nineteenth-century structure, a frame dairy that is located off the southeast corner of the old house. Large louvered vents pierce each side of this weatherboard frame structure that retains a few pieces of beaded siding.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: White Chimneys

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-50

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-50

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common White Chimneys

2. Location

street & number 8579 Riggin Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name K. King and Esther Burnett

street & number 8579 Riggin Road telephone no.:

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code MD 21837

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 679

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 9

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historical Properties

date 1970 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-50

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

White Chimneys is the name of a rural property located on the south side of Riggin Road, southeast of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling faces northwest and the principal gable roof is oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Estimated to date around 1830, the two-story, three-bay frame house is supported by a low brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with original beaded weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a modern (1974-95) addition. Standing in the yard directly adjacent to the house is an early nineteenth-century frame dairy.

The northwest (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The six-panel front door is topped by a four-light transom that is a later addition. The door and window openings are framed by a narrow beaded edge surround. The second floor is lighted by slightly smaller sized six-over-six sash windows also framed by a narrow beaded edge surround. Trimming the base of the roof is a boxed cornice enhanced with early nineteenth-century bed and crown moldings.

The west gable end is dominated by a large nine-course common bond brick exterior stack finished with corbeled shoulders at the second story height. Six-over-six sash windows flank the stack, and small two-over-two sash windows light the attic. The gable end is flush and trimmed with beaded edge bargeboards.

The northeast gable end has a rebuilt exterior brick chimney with six-over-six sash windows to each side and small two-over-two sash windows light the attic.

The rear (southeast) wall is entirely covered by the modern addition, which has been built in stages between 1974 and 1995.

The interior of the old house is fitted with Federal woodwork distinctive to the 1830s. Six-panel doors are framed by narrow molded surrounds. The backband has a finely executed Greek ovolo profile to the round. The stair rises between the two rooms without a center passage. At the head of the staircase a second floor railing is anchored by a chamfered edge newel post. Narrow stick balusters support a circular profile handrail common to the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Federal chair rail moldings and trim the perimeter of the rooms. Enhancing each front room is a Federal mantel with plain pilasters and a five-part frieze that supports a delicately molded and broken profile shelf.

The dairy is a single story gable roofed frame structure that stands on the southeast side of the modern wing. The building is sheathed with a combination of plain and a few remnant beaded weatherboards. The front (northeast) wall is pierced by a six-panel door, and the north and south sides have a large louvered vent. A six-over-six sash window marks the rear wall.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-50

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

For the past thirty years this property southeast of Mardela Springs has been known as White Chimneys, a name inspired by the tall exterior brick stacks that dominate the gable ends of this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling. Estimated to date around 1830, the mortise-and-tenon timber frame house is sheathed with a layer of beaded weatherboards and covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof. The west gable end retains a early nineteenth century, nine-course common bond brick stack that has corbeled shoulders at the second story level. The east gable end chimney was rebuilt when the house was restored and enlarged during the mid 1970s. Structural evidence found during the restoration indicates that the house was built in two stages, beginning with the eastern two-thirds of the three-bay dwelling. The interior is finished with late Federal woodwork associated with the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The house achieved its full three bay form within ten to fifteen years of initial construction.

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By 1968 the Federal farmhouse was in a poor state of repair, and the present owners purchased the house and 25 acres. Over the course following few years the

¹ Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Somerset County Population Schedule, Robert D. Robertson, Barren Creek, Household # 359, transcribed by John C. Barnes.

² John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, p. 10.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 136/383, 1 August 1924.

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

White Chimneys, WI-50

Mardela Springs vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

house was restored and a modern addition was designed and built to the rear. The modern or contemporary aspect of the rear wing was conceived in compatible fashion that clearly distinguishes the old house from the new wing, and at the same, the design provided the new addition with a distinct character all its own. Also standing on the property is another early nineteenth-century structure, a frame dairy that is located off the southeast corner of the old house. Large louvered vents pierce each side of this weatherboard frame structure that retains a few pieces of beaded siding.

This property qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings of high architectural and historical merit. Due to the scarcity of ante-bellum dwellings in Barren Creek election district, this house deserves listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

WI-50
White Chimneys
8579 Riggan Road
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

679/9 Chalmers W. Chassereau
Aurelia S. Chassereau

to

9/30/1968 K. King Burnett

25.2 acres

JWTS 565/352 Mary S. Nottingham
J. Wesley Nottingham

to

6/28/1963 Charles W. Chassereau

25.2 acres

JWTS 479/384 John E. Jacob, Jr.
Thasia M. Jacob

to

6/19/1959 Mary S. Nottingham

JWTS 479/381 Robert Irwin
Elizabeth B. Irwin
Mary S. Hall Nottingham
J. Wesley Nottingham

to

6/16/1959 John E. Jacob, Jr.
Thasia M. Jacob

WI-50
White Chimneys
8579 Riffin Road
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 381/348 Thomas H. Townsend
 Ellen C. Townsend

to

2/19/1955 Robert Irwin
 Elizabeth B. Irwin
 Mary S. Hall

25.2 acres

JWTS 315/117 Reginald Scheider
 Betty Schneider

to

12/9/1949 Thomas H. Townsend
 Ellen C. Townsend

JWS 251/392 Phyllis C. Dodds, single

to

1/7/1943 Betty Church Schneider formerly Betty Church

JWS 251/390 Seth P. Taylor, trustee

to

12/31/1942 Phyllis C. Dodds

WI-50
White Chimneys
8579 Riggins Road
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

JCK 136/383

Annie Robertson

to

8/1/1924

John S. Hurley
George E. Graham
Clarence E. Evans
trading as Hurley, Graham & Co.

JTT 12/133-4

Robert C. Robertson
Susan A. Brattan
Elizabeth E. Griffith

to

10/23/1893

Annie Robertson

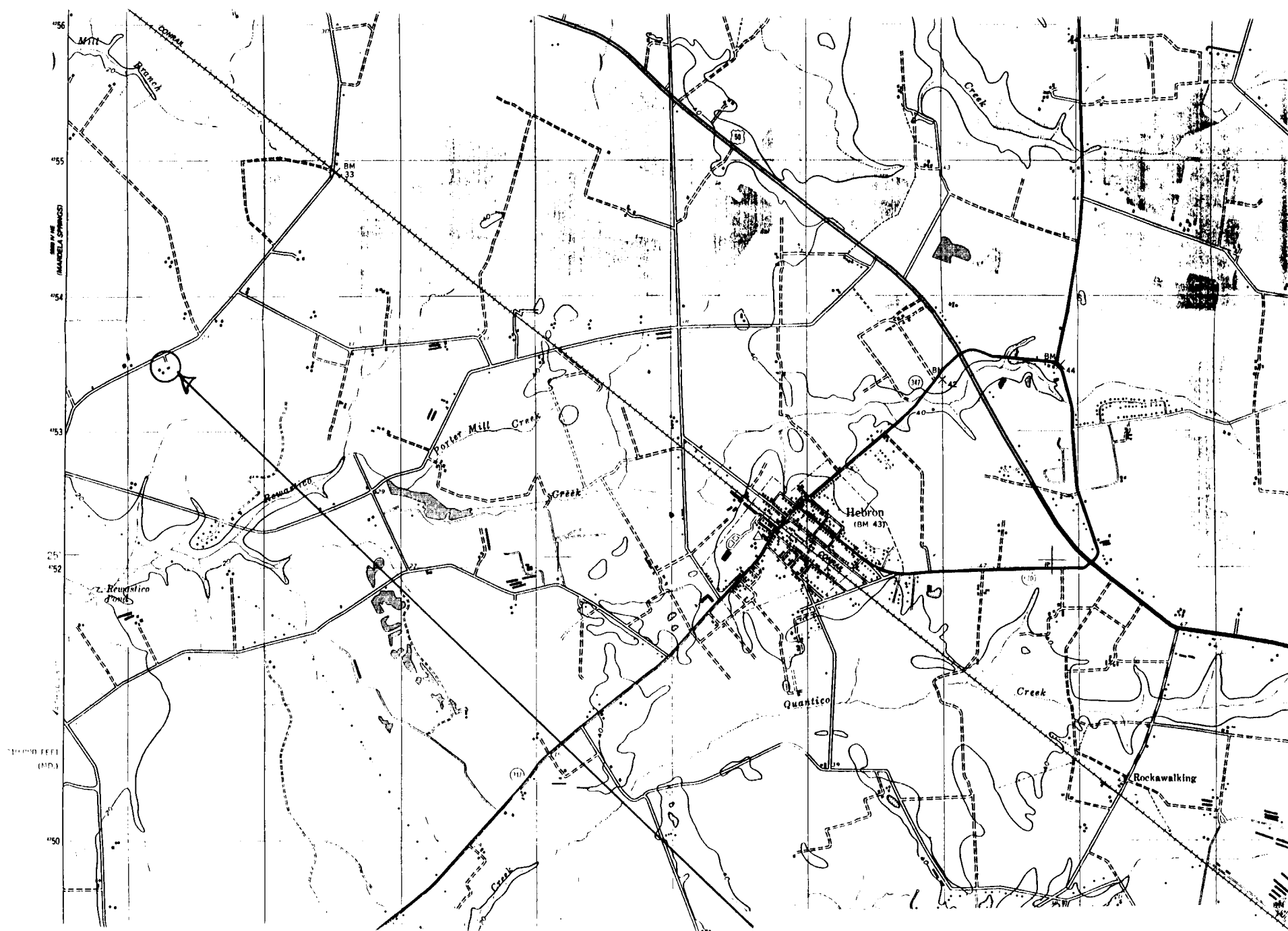
93 acres \$800 being the same land upon which Robert
D. Robertson resided at the time of his
death and which was held by George T.
Robertson

Dist N°1
WICOMICO Cº

RIVERTON P.O.

WI-50
White Chimneys
Mardela Springs, Maryland

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877



WI-50
White Chimneys
Hebron, MD-Del. Quadrangle
1942

WI-50

c. 1800

White Chimneys
Riggin Road (MD 442)
Mardela Springs
HEBRON quad

White Chimneys is a small, 3-bay long, 2 story frame house. It is covered with asbestos siding and the 'A' roof is wood shingle. White louvered shutters and trim contrast with the dark siding. On the exterior of the 2 gables stand two large brick chimneys painted white - thus, the name for the house.

To the rear of the house is an 'L', accomodating a kitchen. In the corner of the two parts of the house is a screened porch.

Inside, the house has simple Federal mantels and trim.

MOB 1/14/71

Large additions were made in 1976, per an article, which may be found in the vertical file.

2300505304

Wi-50

White Chimneys

C.1800

White Chimneys - a small 3 bay long, 2 story frame house. It is covered with asbestos siding and the 'A' roof is wood shingle. White louvered shutters + trim contrast against the dark siding. On the exterior of the 2 gables stand two large brick chimneys painted white - thus, the name for the house.

To the rear of the house is an 'L', accommodating a kitchen. ^{at the corner of} ~~between~~ the two parts of the house is a screened porch.

Inside the house has simple federal mantels and trim.

MTB 1/17/78

W1-50

Riggin K3 — K. Kip Burnett (1969) ^{White Chins}

2.2 miles from Rt 50 —

Left turn W side

50

~~deerfield Rd~~

Front is SW

will Brand R

turn left at Purdue chicken
factory —

✱

Restoration - Contractor -

Henry W. Disharoon
827 Cooper St —
Salisbury

742-3552

did Pemberton Hall — McFarlane

~~842-3552~~ ~~842-3552~~

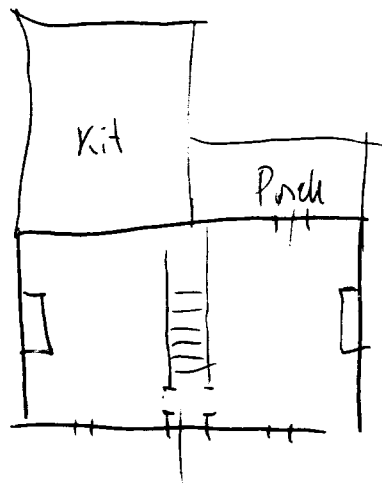
W-50

White Chimneys

~~W. King Burnett~~

K. King Burnett -

3 x 2 - 2 story frame



?

~~WMB~~ 1/10



100

101

102